for making education system more competitive and productive by taking co-operation of the scientists and research experts in the various fields?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) Chairperson, National Knowledge Commission, has, on certain occasions, only commented that Gross Enrolement Ratio in higher education is around 6%, thus implying that a large majority of our young people do not have access to higher education. He has also commented that our education system needs to be adapted to meet the challenges of the 21 st century, and that the Commission will, in due course, recommend strategies for dealing with these challenges.

Gross Enrolement Ratio for age group 18-24 years in the year 2002-03 was around 9%. Government agrees that this needs to be substantially increased and that higher education needs to be made more relevant with respect to the current and emerging context.

Scientists and experts are invaribaly associated in various statutory, advisory and other bodies engaged in designing educational reforms.

Drainage system in Delhi

*177. SHRI R.K.ANAND: Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether the drainage system in Delhi is poorly maintained and inadequate to meet sudden spurt of monsoon; and

if so, whether sewage effluents are flowing in 90 per cent storm water drains, supposed to carry only storm water?

THE MINISTER OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI S. JAIPAL REDDY): (a) The drainage system for carrying rain water run off in Delhi is maintained by the local bodies namely, Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) and the New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) while peripheral major drains, into which the city drains out fall, are maintained by Irrigation and Flood Department of Govt, of NCT of Delhi. The MCD has reported that it maintains 1204 storm water drains and carries out desilting operations before the onset of monsoon to avoid flooding during monsoon period. NDMC has informed that the drainage system is not being poorly maintained, but it is designed for 1/2 inch run off only. Irrigation and Flood Control Department has informed that drains under its jurisdiction have been properly maintained and have not posed any drainage problem during

monsoon. The Delhi Development Authority (DDA) has indicated that in DDA colonies, the Sewerage system and storm water drainage system are separate to each other and are adequate to meet sudden spurt of monsoon.

(b) Delhi Jal Board has informed that in areas developed according to approved plan, proper sewage system is available. However, in case of unauthorised colonies, JJ clusters and rural villages some quantity of domestic waste water flows into the drains. MCD has informed that wherever sewer lines become non-functional, the connection pumping of sewage effluent is done through storm water drains. NDMC has reported that there are separate systems for drainage and sewerage in its areas. Irrigation and Flood Control Department has informed that sewage effluents enter into major storm water drains through the. link drains resulting in siltation. However, desiltation of major drains is being undertaken annually. The DDA has indicated that sewer water flows through sewer line only and no sewer effluent flows through storm water drains.

Uniform basic syllabus

*178. SHRI SHANTARAM LAXMAN NAIK: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

whether Government are proposing to have a unifrom basic syllabus all over the country;

the States who have agreed to the proposal;

whether the NCERT approved syllabus has been circulated among the State Governments; and

if so, the essential features of the syllabus along with the other relevant details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ARJUN SINGH): (a) and (b) The NCERT has prepared the National Curriculum Framework (NCF)-2005, which formed the basis for preparing new syllabi for school education. The Central Advisory Board of Education (CABE), which consists of, *inter alia,* ministers of education from States/ UTs, approved the NCF-2005 in its meeting held on 6th & 7th September, 2005. Based on NCF-2005, NCERT has prepared a new syllabus for School Education. States are expected to frame their curricula and syllabi keeping in view the National Curriculum Framework and the syllabi based thereon.